

FACT SHEET



MIZZOU PAINT COMPANY SITE KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

MARCH 1999

SITE UPDATE

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7 is addressing contamination at the Mizzou Paint Company Site, 8101 South Chestnut Avenue, Kansas City, Missouri. The two-acre site contains a cinder block building adjoined to a smaller metal storage shed which has numerous drums, pint, quart, and gallon containers of paint, used paint, and solvents. Solid waste in the form of excessive trash, papers, cans, clothing, and furniture has also been dumped at the site.

Samples collected by EPA from several containers and drums at the site confirm that they contain ignitable materials. The current site conditions present a potential hazard to public health and the environment because of the threat of a release and the risk of a fire or explosion.

BACKGROUND

The site was originally incorporated in 1994 as R.S. Services, Inc. d.b.a. Mizzou Painting & Special Coatings Company. The property is currently vacant.

On June 23, 1997, an anonymous person called the EPA emergency response number to report unlawfully stored hazardous wastes, paints and solvents from the painting operations at the company's facility. The caller was referred to EPA's Criminal Investigation Division (CID). The CID obtained a warrant allowing them to sample containers and search the property. On April 23, 1998, a sampling effort was conducted to determine if the allegations of dumping and storage of potentially hazardous substances could be confirmed.

During EPA's sampling of the site, approximately 200 containers of various paint-related products and paint wastes were found on the property. Many of these containers were rusty and overturned, with some contents spilling out onto the ground. Most of the containers were not labeled with their contents or the labels had been damaged to the point that they were illegible. The containers that were labeled indicated contents were paint, paint remover and solvents, varnish, and paint wastes.

Samples collected from the containers indicate that many of them contain materials that are

ignitable. The samples also show the presence of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) including toluene, ethyl benzene, acetone and xylene.

On October 30, 1998, a visit by EPA On-Scene Coordinators (OSCs) showed that more trash, discarded furniture, and additional solid wastes had been dumped at the site. The buildings appear to have been vandalized and the locks were off the doors. The condition of the property had deteriorated greatly from the April 1998 visit. The unrestricted access to the site poses a problem in that the containers and their contents are readily accessible to neighborhood residents, children, vagrants and vandals.

SITE ACTIVITIES

The containers, which are in various stages of neglect, will be staged, over packed and removed, and disposed of at an acceptable facility. Efforts will be made to recycle materials, if possible. Any areas where drums and containers have spilled their contents on the ground will be sampled for metals and VOCs. If contamination is detected in the soil, it will be excavated and removed.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you have questions about this fact sheet, or need additional information regarding this site, please contact:

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